trapezoidea; *pectoralia* transversa, quadrilatera, margine anteriore extrorsùm sinuata; *abdominalia* magna quadrata, angulo postico-externo truncato, margine anteriore curvo; *femoralia* et *analia* trapezoidea; *axillaria* angustè rhomboidea, anticè et posticè acutè angulata; *inguinalia* majora, triangularia, anticè acuta.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	9	0
Latitudo	6	5
Longitudo sterni	8	3
Altitudo	3	7

Amongst the *Emydes* of North America, the general similarity of which renders it so difficult to distinguish the species by any tangible characters,—a difficulty which is greatly increased by the numerous variations to which most of them are subject,—the present species is one of the most striking, as offering several characters readily appreciated, and sufficient to prevent it from being for a moment mistaken for any other. Whilst in its general form, in the dentated outline of the posterior margin of the shell, in the character of its rugose surface, and even in some of the lines and other markings both of the plates and skin, it partakes of the same general character which belongs to *Emys reticulata*, *serrata*, *rugosa*, *irrigata*, and *ornata*, it is at once distinguishable from them all, by the absence of all regular pattern on the upper shell, the uniform brown colour being interrupted only by a few spots of greater or less intensity of the same hue, or, in young specimens, by a single pale mark on each of the marginal plates. The rugose furrows of the plates are also characterized by a more regular and marked decussation of the concentric and radiating lines: the anterior vertebral plate is *quadrate*, rather broader forwards, whilst in all the others it is more or less panduriform or urceolate.

The pale yellow of the under side is marked, especially in young specimens, by obsolete spots of a greyish brown colour, but so pale as to be only just visible. Of these the most constant are found on the sutures of the marginal plates, on the axillary and inguinal, and on the suture between the gular and

humeral. In older individuals they entirely disappear, and the sternum sometimes becomes irregularly clouded with brown.

Few species of the genus have been more frequently offered to me for purchase than this; and it is strange that it should have remained so long undescribed. I have possessed many of them living, and have had as good an opportunity of observing their habits as the change of their condition would permit. They are voracious, like their congeners, tearing in pieces and greedily devouring meat, frogs, small fish, or any other food of this kind. On being teazed, they snap at any object held near them with considerable quickness and force. One of this species which I kept some years since, exhibited a peculiarity in the manner in which it took its food, which does not appear to belong to the species generally. On a portion of meat being presented to it in the water, its fore legs were stretched out directly forwards, the palms being placed outwards, and the feet were then agitated with a sort of vibratory motion, during which the head was suddenly darted out to seize the prey.

I have not been able to ascertain from what part of America my specimens were brought; but I have reason to conclude that they are found in various parts of the United States.